



# NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **KEVIN SHELLEY**

KS05:003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, January 21, 2005

Contact: Caren Daniels-Meade  
Carol Dahmen  
916-653-6575

## **SECRETARY OF STATE KEVIN SHELLEY CERTIFIES VOTING SYSTEM WITH PAPER AUDIT TRAIL**

*First AVVPAT System Certified for Statewide Use in California*

Sacramento -- Secretary of State Kevin Shelley today (Jan. 21) approved for use in California a touch screen voting system that produces an accessible, voter verified paper audit trail (AVVPAT) to meet requirements of both state and federal law beginning in 2006.

The Voting Systems and Procedures Panel voted yesterday, after hearing testimony from county elections officials, vendors and other interested parties, to recommend to the Secretary that he certify the AVC Edge using the VeriVote printer manufactured by Oakland-based Sequoia Voting Systems.

"I am pleased to be able to offer to counties for consideration in their purchasing decisions a system that meets the paper audit trail standards that I developed in conjunction with county elections officials, representatives of the disabled and minority-language communities, and others," Shelley said.

These standards became the basis for those adopted into state law with the passage of SB 1438 last year. They also address the accessibility provisions of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

California, under Secretary Shelley's leadership, has led the nation in the development of minimum standards and guidelines for independent paper audit trails to confirm that the direct recording electronic (DRE) voting machines accurately capture a voter's vote.

The system approved today for general use in California was used in a pilot project in San Bernardino County in one precinct in the November presidential election, and was used statewide in Nevada for the presidential election last year. Both experiences were positive. The Sequoia VeriVote system was rigorously tested and approved by the federal government as well as by technical experts in behalf of the Secretary of State.

As part of his certification of the system, Secretary Shelley required the vendor to agree to provide source code for the voting system's computer programs and a working model of the system to his office.

HAVA requires that by January 1, 2006, all polling places have at least one voting machine that allow individuals with disabilities, including blind and visually impaired voters, to vote privately and independently. Under the law, this requirement can be met by having at least one DRE equipped with an audio device in each polling place. California law requires all DRE systems used after January 1, 2006, to provide an accessible, voter-verified paper audit trail.